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COMOR-D-24/33

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10 December 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance
SUBJECT: Requirements for Low-Level Photography
of Mayari Arriba and the Guantanamo Area

For information and reference there is attached a paper agreed
to at the 9 December COMOR meeting and forwarded to the Director of
Central Intelligence.

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[REDACTED]

James Q. Reber
Chairman
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachment:
Subject paper.

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Requirement for Low-Level Photography
of Mayari Arriba and the Guantanamo Area

1. The Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance has reviewed the photographic evidence relative to the military installation at Mayari Arriba and the area around the United States Naval Base at Guantanamo. We find that both areas have been covered repeatedly during November and December by good quality U-2 photography. Both areas are on the standing objectives list for coverage each time BRASS KNOB operations are conducted. The latest good quality photography on these areas available to the National Photographic Interpretation Center at this time was taken on 5 December 1962.
2. After a review of the evidence from all sources, COMOR concludes that the installation at Mayari Arriba is related to the Soviet Cruise Missile system of which the site at Banes is an example. There are 48 crates at Mayari Arriba of the same type that have been identified at the various Cruise Missile sites. The Mayari Arriba installation may, therefore, be a storage or support area for the Cruise Missile system. There has been no significant change at the Mayari Arriba installation during November and December.
3. The NPIC is making a detailed analysis of the recent photography up through 5 December for military installations in the area around Guantanamo. This study is about one-third completed, and it shows no significant change from previous information. Nothing other than an already identified SAM site has been found to account for the ground level reports of missiles being transported by rail and road toward Guantanamo.
4. No suspicious target has been found in the BRASS KNOB photography which would require low-level coverage to explain its nature. Possible sites at which Cruise Missiles might be deployed in the future have been targeted and are regularly searched as new photography becomes available.
5. In view of the factors outlined above, COMOR cannot establish a requirement for low-level coverage of Mayari Arriba or the Guantanamo area at this time. When the

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NPIC study of the Guantanamo area is completed or if future BRASS KNOB missions reveal suspicious installations that cannot be properly interpreted from high altitude photography, COMOR will review its requirements in the light of the new evidence.

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Approved For Release 2001/09/04 : CIA-RDP92B01090R002600080016-5

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